

**ABSTRACT**

A system and method for formatting numbers is disclosed. The system and method can determine if a telephone number is received, either alone or as part of a string. If a telephone number is received, the system applies a format to the number corresponding to a recognized telephone number format. If a number other than a telephone number is received, the system applies a different kind of format to the number. In some cases, the system applies a format to the number using the pauses between spoken characters or numbers. The system and method can be used with a hands free telephone.